

WASHINGTON STATE PARK



Big River

Located 10 miles southwest of DeSoto and 45 miles south of St. Louis on State Highway 21, Washington State Park's 1,101 acres are favored by many because of its rugged terrain, high bluffs and Big River.

One of the interesting attractions in this park is the strange carvings in stone known as "Indian Petroglyphs." Archaeologists do not know when these prehistoric and fantastic figures were hewn into the outcropping of dolomite. Most of the figures are fairly easy to recognize, such as spirals, wavy lines, human figures and footprints, birds, bird tracks, turtles, cups, arrows, sun symbols, animal tracks, snakes, and many other indescribable types may be seen.

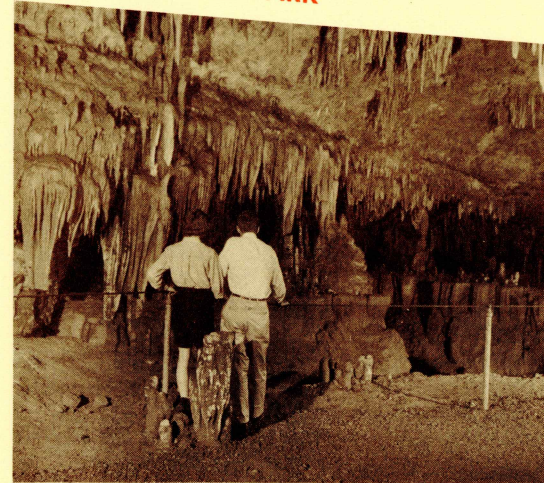
Mining is the chief industry in the area, largely for barite, commonly called "tuff," iron ore and lead. Washington County, in which the park is located, produces more lead ore than any like-sized area in the world. In this park large pieces of iron ore on top of the ground may be seen along the foot trails as well as odd rock formations. These formations are known as fault zones, and one can see where flat layers of rock have been twisted or folded by some internal force resembling a volcanic disturbance.

Park activities center around the Thunderbird Dining Lodge constructed of native limestone in the cool valley of Big River, ideally situated to add to the dining pleasure of park users. There is playground equipment for the youngsters, picnic tables and ovens are nearby, a large play or ball field, swimming and fishing in Big River, overnight campgrounds, a nature museum and nature trails, overnight modern cabins and shelters make a visit to Washington State Park more enjoyable, either for a day or an entire vacation.

Washington State Park as well as many others should be visited, even for only a day, especially in the fall when Mother Nature paints her foliage readying for Missouri's fabulous flaming fall review.

For cabin reservations, write to: Concessionaire, Washington State Park, DeSoto, Missouri.

MERAMEC STATE PARK



Interior of Fisher's Cave

Meramec State Park, consisting of 7,153 acres of wooded hills and divided almost in half by the springfed Meramec River, is located 4 miles east of Sullivan on State Highway 114 and about 60 miles southwest of St. Louis on U. S. Highway 66.

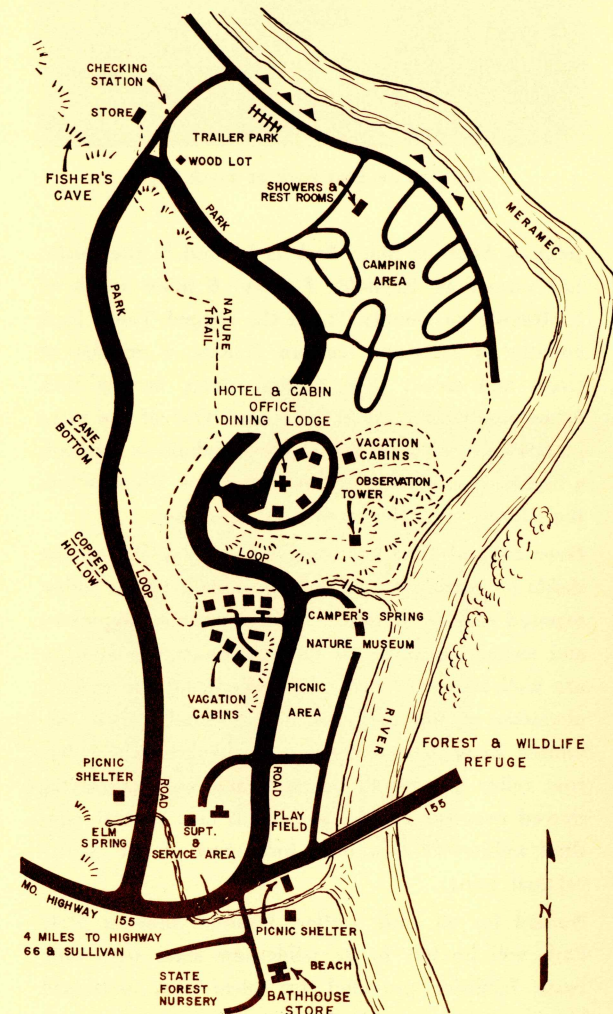
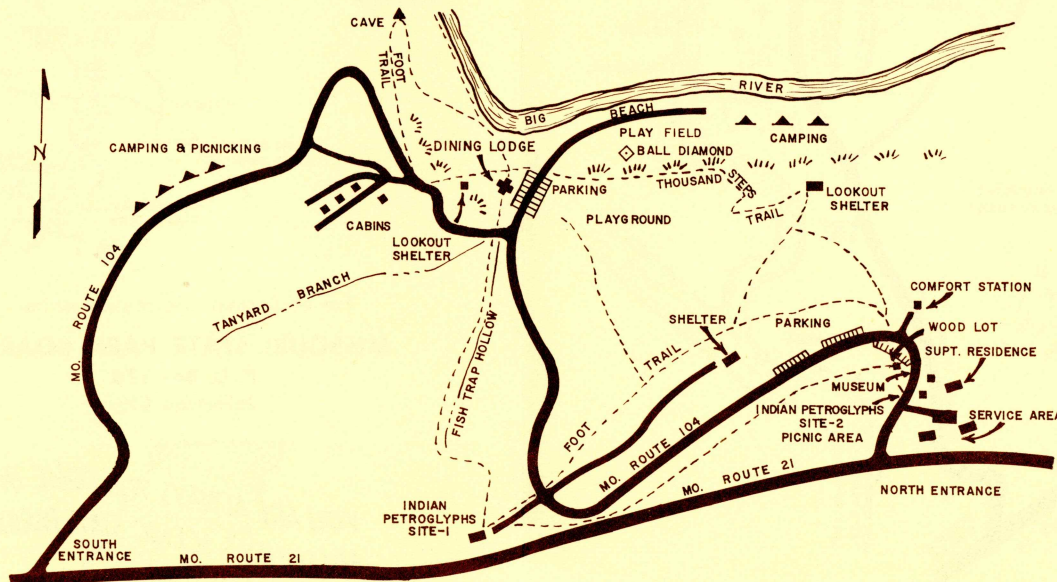
The park contains numerous springs and more than twenty caves, of which Fisher's Cave is the largest and most interesting and guided tours are conducted through this cave. A distance of half a mile has been explored for public use. Wildlife will be found in abundance throughout the area, particularly the half on the east side of the river, as it is designated primarily as a wildlife refuge with no day or overnight facilities provided. The Meramec River, after which the park was named, is one of the major fast-flowing, clear water streams in Missouri, and is known for its black bass, channel cat, jack salmon and pan fishing.

Through the years nature has covered the hills and valleys with a large variety of sturdy oaks, gums, pine, cherry, dogwood, redbud, walnut, hackberry, maples, a wealth of undergrowth and wild flowers. From the time the redbud and dogwood bloom in the spring to the flaming fall review, the picturesque Meramec valley, flanked by the Ozark hills, is one of the outstanding beauty spots in Missouri.

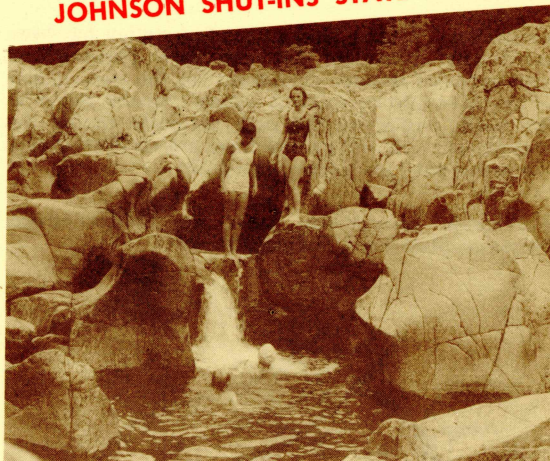
The recreational facilities provided are numerous, such as modern vacation cabins, either sleeping or light housekeeping; a spacious dining lodge serving excellent food; a modern bathhouse and sand beach on the river; playground equipment for the youngsters; tennis court; a ball field; picnic tables and ovens; overnight campgrounds; and modern trailer

connections. A new, modern comfort station has been constructed providing hot and cold showers and coin-operated laundry equipment for the convenience of the overnight campers. A nature museum serves as the headquarters for the park naturalist during the summer months, and guided tours are conducted over the numerous foot trails in the park.

For cabin reservations, write to: Concessionaire, Meramec State Park, Sullivan, Missouri.



JOHNSON SHUT-INS STATE PARK



Shut-ins on East Fork of Black River

Johnson Shut-ins State Park is located in the north-east corner of Reynolds County, 8 miles north of Lesterville on County M. In the rugged Taum Sauk country of Missouri's eastern Ozarks, a number of rivers and creeks flow through deep, narrow rock formations locally called "shut-ins." One of the more picturesque of these water gaps is Johnson's shut-ins, a remote spot on the east fork of Black River within the shadow of Little Taum Sauk Mountain.

Over eons of time the stream formed a canyon-like defile by cutting a bed through a shelf of the oldest exposed rock in Missouri. Long a popular picnicking and swimming place for local residents, the shut-ins are well known to geologists because of the striking character of the rock and the unusual erosion exhibited there. The water-carved rhyolite in the narrow valley belongs to the pre-Cambrian era, having flowed over the surface as molten lava several hundred million years ago to form part of the earth's original crust.

Named for an early settler, Johnson Shut-ins State Park will be left in its wilderness state with only basic facilities provided for picnicking, overnight camping and nature trails.



Dining Lodge

Sam A. Baker State Park is located 3 miles north of Patterson, in Wayne County, on State Highway 143, 125 miles south of St. Louis on U. S. Highway 67, and 60 miles west of Cape Girardeau on State Highway 34. This park contains 4,898 acres, making it one of the largest parks in the system. It was named in honor of a native son of Wayne County, Sam A. Baker, the thirty-seventh Governor of Missouri.

The public use area of the park is along the banks of Big Creek and the St. Francis River, the two forming the headwaters of Lake Wappapello. The improvements in the park are numerous. Several of the buildings are constructed with black granite, cut during the work program of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The dining lodge is built with the stone combined with hewn white oak timbers, which creates a delightful atmosphere for the dining pleasure of visitors. The cabins are of stone and wood and are available for either sleeping or light housekeeping. A large all-purpose play court has been constructed to provide for tennis, volleyball, square and round dancing. There is a conveniently located bathhouse on the banks of Big Creek for those who wish to swim or wade in this springfed stream. Playground equipment has been provided for the youngsters. Nature or foot trails lead from the cabin area up the side of Mudlick Mountain to a high bluff overlooking the broad valley of Big Creek and the shut-ins below. Granite shelters will be found along the trail that leads up to the mountain top where Mudlick Fire Tower is located. From the top of the tower on a clear day, a majestic view of the very picturesque, rugged Ozark hills country unfolds, a sight long to be remembered.

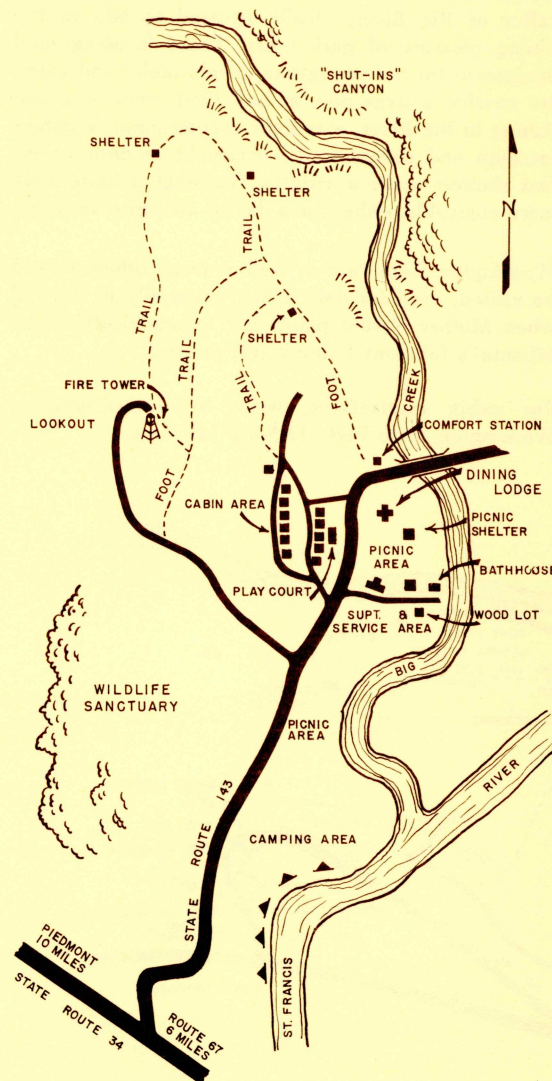
The overnight camping and picnicking areas are well equipped with tables, ovens, water and sanitary

SAM A. BAKER STATE PARK

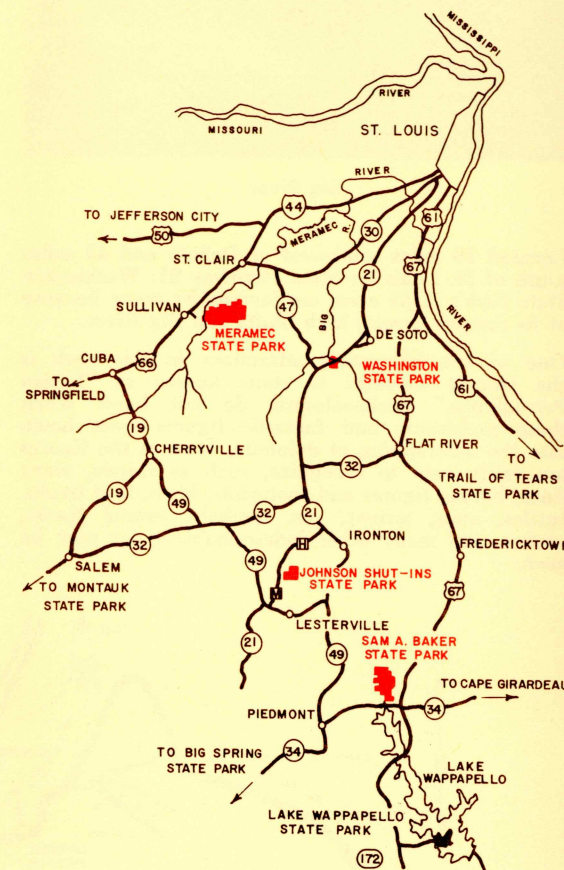
facilities, the coin-operated, automatic clothes washer and dryer are located in the cabin area, and boats may be put in the St. Francis River near the overnight campgrounds. No rental boats are available in the park.

This park, because of the quietness and the location of the cabins in respect to the dining lodge and playground equipment, has become known as a family vacation park.

For cabin reservations, write to: Concessionaire, Sam A. Baker State Park, Patterson, Missouri.



Overnight camping with complete facilities is available from April 15 through October 31. A daily charge of \$1.00 for each camping unit and \$1.50 for modern trailer connections in Meramec State Park. A charge of 75c per day in Johnson Shut-ins, Sam A. Baker and Washington State Parks. Firewood in all state parks will be sold at 25c per bundle. Concessionaire will quote rental rate and amount of deposit for cabins when confirming reservations.



For additional information write:

MISSOURI STATE PARK BOARD
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City

